MIDDLE EAST AND SOUTH ASIS REVIEW

11 JANUARY 1982

Libya

Coup Attempt Denial -- JANA denied a 9 January French television report of a recent coup attempt against Col Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi, asserting that this claim was part of the U.S. campaign against Libya. JANA said Western media should instead have carried a true picture of the situation inside Sudan. Earlier, the Sudanese agency SUNA had reported an unsuccessful coup attempt in Benghazi on 3 January. Asserting that 350 soldiers, 280 civilians and about 200 students had been arrested, SUNA said the coup might have succeeded if Al-Qadhdhafi's foreign protectors had not suppressed it. The SUNA report, attributed to "reliable sources" in Tunis, spoke of fierce fighting in Benghazi with heavy casualties on both sides.

Contacts With USSR, Poland, Ghana -- KUNA reported that Libyan Air Force Commander Col Sadeq Farjani met in Moscow with Soviet Chief of Staff Marshal Nikolay Vasilyevich Ogarkov on 8 January.

The following day, Col al-Qadhdhafi received Gen Tadeusz Hupalowski, Polish Military Council for National Salvation member in Tripoli, Tripoli radio reported. The radio said the Polish envoy gave Al-Qadhdhafi a letter from Council Chairman Gen Wojciech Jaruzelski, in which the Polish leader asserted that his country needs Libyan support and understanding and is grateful for Al-Qadhdhafi's stated readiness to provide foodstuffs for the Polish people. The radio later reported that Hupalowski said the results of his visit were positive.

Accra radio reported that Ghana's Porvisional National Defense Council (PNDC) has decided to resume full diplomatic relations with Libya immediately. Tripoli's Voice of Arab Homeland radio noted that on 9 January PNDC Chairman Flight Lieutenant Jerry Rawlings met with a Libyan delegation which had arrived in Accra to express Libyan support for Ghana's "revolutionary uprising" led by Rawlings.

Sudan

SUNA reported on 8 January that security organs had discovered explosives and Molotov cocktails in some dormitories and offices at Khartoum University. It said "subversive forces" among the students planned to blow up the university library and laboratories. Citing a statement to the SSU secretariat by Gen 'Abd al-Majid Hamid Khalil, first vice president, SUNA reported on 9 January that the army had entered the university at the request of its administration and that the troops will be withdrawn when the situation stabilizes and some students are removed. Khalil added that the security situation is under control. According to another SUNA report, all schools and institutes in the Nile Province were closed indefinitely on 9 January because of riots at some schools that morning.

In an 8 January statement reported by SUNA, the governor of Khartoum Province announced that during the 3-4 January riots in the Omdurman region, 13 vehicles and 120 shops were destroyed and a post office was attacked. The statement added that during disturbances at the Khartoum branch of Cairo University on 5 and 6 January, one person was killed while seven policemen and two rioters were wounded. Most of the demonstrators were not students, the statement asserted.

Syria

SPA reported that Foreign Minister 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam arrived in Riyadh on 10 January with a message from President Hafiz al-Asad for Saudi King Khalid ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz. During his visit, Khaddam held talks with Crown Prince Fahd and other Saudi officials, SPA noted. Khaddam later flew to Bahrain, Manama television reported, where he delivered a message from Al-Asad to Amir Shaykh 'Isa ibn Salman Al-Khalifah. According to KUNA,

Khaddam arrived on a short visit to Kuwait on 11 January and delivered another presidential message to the Amir, Shaykh Jabir al-Ahmad as-Sabah. The Syrian foreign minister then left for Doha, KUNA said.

Manama television noted that during his visit to Manama, Khaddam said his message to the Amir dealt with Arab issues connected to Israel's decision regarding the Golan Heights, adding that if the UN Security Council fails to impose sanctions on Israel, Syria will call for a meeting of Arab foreign ministers to take the "appropriate steps." According to a related KUNA report, he said Syria would present "definite ideas and proposals" to such a meeting. KUNA also reported that Khaddam's talks with Gulf leaders concern Syria's "inclination" to sign a strategic cooperation agreement with the Soviet Union as a preliminary move toward the achievement of a balance of power between Syria and Israel.

According to Damascus television, Khaddam will visit the Soviet Union in the middle of January.

Autonomy Talks

Commenting on the forthcoming Palestinian autonomy talks, Cairo radio called on the United States to exercise a more effective and forceful role, pressuring Israel to be more flexible and to reconsider its decision to "annex" the Golan Heights. The peace process must not be "frozen at certain borders," the radio added, but must expand to include new Arab elements. According to MENA, a 10 January AL-AHRAM editorial called on Israel to show its "seriousness" in the talks in order to eliminate the adverse effects of its decision to annex the Golan. MENA also reported that on the following day AL-AHRAM said Egypt's stand during its upcoming discussions with U.S. Secretary of State Alexander Haig will be governed by three principles: that Egypt welcomes the new U.S. move, but does not wish to be bound by a timetable for implementing the peace process; that results are what count; and that sufficient time must be allowed to create an atmosphere conducive to establishing genuine autonomy.

Jerusalem television reported that in a 10 January meeting, Israel's ministerial committee on autonomy formulated an unambiguous position, stating that there is no intention of allowing east Jerusalem Arabs to participate in elections to the autonomy institutions. In an interview with Jerusalem radio after the meeting, Israeli Interior Minister Dr Joseph Burg said that if Secretary of State Haig brings new ideas on the autonomy issue during his upcoming visit to the region, Israel will be very happy to hear them. Burg also said in an IDF radio interview that while an agreement about the details of autonomy is unlikely before April, an agreement on principles is possible. However, a 10 January MA'ARIV commentary opined that Egyptian President Husni Mubarak does not want to reach any agreement before April and therefore Haig should not delude himself about the chances for an agreement during his next shuttle trip. According to IDF radio, Israel will shortly formulate and publish a document outlining its proposals on autonomy. Noting that the document will be based on known positions, the radio said Prime Minister Menahem Begin has no intention of surprising Haig with new positions.

Egypt

MENA reported that on 9 January the public prosecutor announced the release of 81 detainees for lack of evidence of their involvement in sectarian unrest.

Iran-Iraq Conflict

Comment on Mediation -- Citing diplomatic sources, the Kuwaiti newspaper AR-RA'Y AL-'AMM reported that Iranian Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati's upcoming visit to Algeria pertains to the mediation initiative to end the Iran-Iraq war. In this regard, the paper said, the Iranians are "inclined to accept" a plan calling for the disengagement of forces by deploying contingents from Algeria, Syria and other Arab and Muslim states prior to political negotiations based on the 1975 Algiers agreement. In an interview with Tehran radio after a 9 January meeting of Iran's Supreme Defense Council, President 'Ali Khamene'i said that when Iraqi or Jordanian leaders ask other countries, organizations

or personalities to mediate, they are placing Iran "in a defensive position from a political viewpoint." Asserting that Iraqi leaders are lying when they claim to seek peace, he reiterated that Iran will not agree to participate in peace talks so long as Iraqi forces remain on its territory.

PLO Stand -- According to INA, Fatah Central Committee member Salah Khalaf told a symposium in San'a' that the PLO supports Iraq in its war against Iran and has done so since the first day of the war. Khalaf reportedly condemned Iranian "intransigence" and denounced the organization of demonstrations in Iran against PLO leader Yasir 'Arafat.

Military Situation -- Iranian Joint Staff communiques broadcast by Tehran radio over the weekend reported continued fighting in the Gilan-e Gharb region. A 9 January Tehran radio report claimed 350 Iraqis had been killed in the region during the preceding 24 hours. According to INA, Iraqi air defenses downed an Iranian drone reconnaissance aircraft. INA cited a military commentator as stating that the use of the drone indicated the arrival of foreign military experts in Iran because Iran does not have the capability of operating such aircraft.

Iran

Security Situation -- IRNA reported that President Khamene'i's brother, Majlis Deputy Mohammad Khamene'i, narrowly escaped assassination when terrorists attacked him in northeast Tehran on 10 January. Khamene'i was slightly wounded, the report said, and two of his bodyguards were killed. According to the clandestine Free Voice of Iran radio, an opposition organization calling itself the revenge committee claimed responsibility for the attack. Citing the newspaper AYANDEGAN, AFP reported the recent execution of eight dissidents in southern and western Iran.

Khamene'i on Kurds -- During a 9 January interview with Tehran radio, President Khamene'i denouned those Kurds who seized control of Mahabad shortly after the revolution, describing them as "a bunch of communists." The Kurdish rebels are totally opposed to Islam, he said, and their rebellion has nothing to do with Sunni-Shi'ite differences.

Khomeyni on Islamic Unity -- In an Islamic unity week speech carried by Tehran radio, Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeyni, declaring Iran's "brotherhood" with all Muslim governments and nations, announced that Iran is not seeking rule or hegemony over and has no aggressive designs toward Islamic or non-Islamic countries.

Iraq

Abu Nasir Sa'id, a spokesman for the outlawed Ad-Da'wah Party, which claimed responsibility for the destruction of the Iraqi Embassy in Beirut on 15 December, told AFP in Tehran that his party's priorities are execution of Ba'th officials and security agents, blowing up official buildings and economically crucial installations, and attacking military targets. He added that Iran gives the party no aid other than authorization to be in the country, that anyone not linked to the superpowers, whether "Palestinian or other," may train the party's fighters, and that their main training base in the Iranian-Iraqi front.

Afghanistan

According to Kabul radio, the Foreign Ministry spokesman announced that the DRA rejects the U.S.-FRG joint communique on Afghanistan and condemns interference by "imperialist circles" in the country's internal affairs. If these countries are really interested in solving "events surrounding Afghanistan," the spokesman said, they should make Pakistan respond positively to the DRA's proposals for peaceful talks.

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FOREIGN MINISTRY CONDEMNS U.S.-FRG COMMUNIQUE

LD102100 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1730 GMT 10 Jan 82

[Text] The spokesman of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs has replied to a question of a BAKHTAR correspondent on the U.S.-FRG joint communique [words indistinct].

At the end of FRG Chancellor Helmut Schmidt's visit to the United States, the U.S.-FRG joint communique was issued in which they expressed their support for the so-called decision of the European Parliament and U.S. Congress [word indistinct] to mark the day of Afghanistan. Likewise, reference was made in the communique to the [word indistinct] and rights of the Afghan people.

This is not the first time that imperialism, led by world-devouring U.S. imperialism and its NATO allies, has assigned itself the right to speak on behalf of the free, independent and nonaligned people of Afghanistan and to blatantly interfere in the international affairs of our country, (?contrary) to international and UN principles and standards.

In (?our view) the adoption of such a hostile policy by the imperialist circles against the DRA is only creating obstacles for the peaceful solution of events surrounding Afghanistan.

The U.S. and FRG leaders have spoken in this communique about the so-called support for the Afghan people. But this demagogic [words indistinct]. After the glorious April Revolution which took place with the support of the millions of Afghan toilers under the leadership of the PDPA, the interests of imperialism and its henchmen in this region and the interest of internal reaction, that is, the interests of the ruling exploiting classes, are endangered forever; and the power from the ruling class which for years (?exploited) the toilers was transferred to those who had been exploited.

Following the victory of the national, democratic, antifeudal and anti-imperialist revolution, the Afghan people have chosen their path forever, which is invincible. The Afghan people do not need such lying support and now they know very well who their friends and foes are.

The imperialist circles, with the collaboration of Beijing hegemonists and reaction of the region, who are waging an undeclared war against the Afghan people, who by mobilizing the mercenary and terrorist bands are engaged virtually every day in the merciless killing of our elders, women and children, and who plunder and destroy our people with these demagogic announcements but condemn their hostile actions [words indistinct].

There is no power in the world [words indistinct] to reverse the course of revolution in our [word indistinct] independent and nonaligned country.

The DRA Ministry of Foreign Affairs announces that if these countries are really interested in the solution of events surrounding Afghanistan, it would be better for them to (?make) the militarist Government of Pakistan give a positive reply to the DRA's realistic and peaceful proposals of 14 May and 24 August in accordance with the wishes of the toiling people of Pakistan and prepare for peaceful talks with us.

We never surrender to the policy of coercion and thus resolutely reject the U.S.-FRG joint communique on Afghanistan, as we do the other announcements of the imperialist circles, and we vigorously denounce and condemn their interference in the internal affairs of our country.

OSMANI REJECTS ERSHAD'S VIEW ON ARMY ROLE

BK091124 Dacca THE BANGLADESH OBSERVER in English 7 Jan 82 pp 1, 8

[Text] General (retired) M. A. G. Osmani, chief of Jatiya Janata Party, who was the commander-in-chief of the liberation army, on Friday [1 January] advised the armed forces personnel "not to set a bad example by trying to indulge in politics in uniform", reports BSS.

"Should any serving officer or serviceman feel he has the acumen or experience or ability to give the country a lead or improve the quality of the country's government, his correct course is to retire or take release (if on short-term engagement) or resign and join politics to serve the country setting a correct example," he said in a lengthy statement commenting on the recent observations of chief of the army staff on the role of the armed forces in nation building purposes in addition to their role on national defence.

General Osmani referred to different statements and interviews of the chief of army staff furing last months and said that he could not help deprecating the action of General Ershad, while in service in airing his views through a press statement. Such views, he said, should have been submitted correctly to the government in the Ministry of Defence for due processing for consideration by the government. After that, the JJP chief said if he (General Ershad) felt unhappy with the government's decision "he could retire on the expiry of his normal tenure of 3 years or such extensions thereof as he might have been granted or resigned to air his views publicly."

The army chief, General Osmani said, "has therefore set an incorrect example and acted in a manner inconsistent with the time honoured code of conduct and customs of the services in countries having constitutional government."

General Osmani did not agree with the views of the army chief who had earlier said "the concept of keeping the defence services above politics is a colonial and Western concept." In fact, he said, it was in the colonial system that the senior defence commander and defence forces had political roles. He cited a number of examples to substantiate his point and later quoted late Chairman Mao Zedong saying "it is the party which must control the gun and not the gun which should control the party."

Referring the army chief's views that the armed forces who fought the liberation war with people [as published] should not be treated as a mere service, General Osmani posed question "should the BDR [Bangladesh Rifles] and the police then be similarly integrated and incorporated in the policy-making structure and not kept above politics?"

He also said: "Should not the civilian freedom fighters, constituting the largest component of the liberation forces, then be given due share in the policy among structure, affecting the nation's future?"

The JJP chief agreed with the contention of General Ershad that the armed forces should be utilised on productive and nation building projects. There can be no difference of opinion about it, he said, adding however "this does not necessitate the involvement on the regular army or for that matter the regular forces, in politics nor their inclusion in the power structure of the state".

General Osmani agreed with the army chief's observation that the armed forces of Bangladesh were in favour of democratic and constitutional process and had upheld the glorious tradition under most trying conditions. But, General Osmani added, "it is the odd ambitious and short-sighted senior who misleads others to adventure in a bid to seize power taking advantage of the weakness of those in power."

HAQ LIFTS CENSORSHIP AT COUNCIL'S INAUGURATION

BK110850 Karachi Domestic Service in Urdu 0547 GMT 11 Jan 82

[Pakistan President Gen Mohammad Ziaul Haq's address at the inaugural session of the Federal Advisory Council -- live]

[Excerpts] Mr Khwaja Safdar, chairman of the Federal Advisory Council and members of the council, peace be upon you. I am confident that the 14th of Rabiul Awwal 1402 Hegira -- 11 January 1982 -- will live as a memorable day because of the formal inauguration of the Advisory Council today but is also important because the journey we begin today will have a powerful influence on our national life, and I hope and pray that this influence will prove positive and beneficial. In this important speech on this memorable day, first of all I welcome you and hope that you and we will succeed in achieving the objective for which you have gathered here and, God willing, will continue to gather for future sessions. I congratulate all the members of the council and thank them, despite their various engagements and constraints, for responding to my call and accepting membership of this council. I have recently written individual letters to all the members and, God willing, I will have the honor of personally meeting with them during this session.

As you know, this is the inaugural session of the council, which will sit for 6 days. The agenda of this session has already been prepared, and I will discuss it a short while later. This session has deliberately been made brief. I hope, God willing, that future sessions will be a little longer.

For the past 15 or 20 days I have been speaking out on various important national issues on various occasions. From among these subjects I would like to deal again with two or three in my speech today.

This Advisory Council will not only formulate future guidelines, but will act as a bridge or transitory phase -- the "intermediary stage" -- between the present martial law administration and the future Islamic democratic government. This council will be competent not only to review the future structure but also the present political situation. If this council feels that the restrictions on political activities in the present situation are against the national interest or that the censorship on newspapers is harmful for the country and the nation, it should freely discuss these issues and tell the government ways by which these restrictions should be ended without the law-and-order situation in the country being placed in jeopardy. I assure you that the intelligent opinion of the 300 members will be given full consideration and a new policy reflecting the greater interests of the country will be formulated.

For the information of the house, however, I would like to state that we have decided to lift press censorship in phases. Censorship of literary and educational books and journals has, as you know, already been lifted. I am happy to announce here that effective today precensorship of all dailies in Pakistan has been lifted. They will henceforth censor themselves in the light of the appropriate directives. Of course, censorship of political, semipolitical and nonliterary weeklies, monthlies and magazines will remain for the time being.

Turning from the issue of the Advisory Council, I would like to tell you a little about newspapers.

The first thing is that during this period of self-censorship the press will have to keep in view the following guiding principles which have been mentioned earlier and are envisaged in legislation. These are: No material shall be published which is: 1) against the Islamic world and Islamic ideology; 2) which tends to harm Pakistan's security; 3) which fans sectarian or regional sentiments; and, 4) which hurts the prestige of the armed forces or the judiciary. I hope that the Pakistani newspapers will take advantage of this new measure and demonstrate a sense of responsible journalism in the national interest.

KHAMENE'I EXPLAINS FOREIGN POLICY PRINCIPLES

LD081210 Tehran IRNA in English 1836 GMT 7 Jan 82

[Text] Tehran, 7 Jan (IRNA) -- Supporting the unity among Muslims did not mean the encouraging of an aggressor and accepting any aggression, said President 'Ali Khamene'i in a press conference today. The president urged all Muslim countries, particularly those in the Middle East and in the Persian Gulf, not to prevent the Muslims from being united. He also wanted them to avoid creating conflicts such as the issue of Arab and Persian or the issue of Shi'ite and Sunni which were definitely harmful for the unity among the Muslim countries.

President Khamene'i added that the foreign policy of the Islamic Republic of Iran was based on three principles:

1 -- Sincere cooperation with friends,
2 -- Safe and ordinary relations with impartials,
3 -- Decisive and bravely countering with enemies and aggressors.

It was because of these political stands, said the president, that Iran would not come to any compormise with the regime occupying Jerusalem which had basically been created by means of aggression. He also urged the Arab governments to condemn the annexation of the Golan Heights by all means such as political, economic and even, if necessary, military pressures. The president expressed the readiness of the Iranian Government and nation for the said purpose. The Iranian president again urged all the governments and nations of the region for a massive unity which would disappoint all of their big enemies in the world. About the issues which had been brought up during the recent Iranian foreign minister's visit to Syria, the president stressed that the issue of peace was not brought up, neither by the Iranians nor by the Syrians. It should be recalled that imperialist and Zionist media has largely carried false reports, before and during the Iranian foreign minister's visit to Syria, that the two sides were due to negotiate about a peace settlement between Iran and Iraq.

KHAMENE'I ON MEDIATION EFFORTS, MEDIA COVERAGE

LD092224 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 2030 GMT 9 Jan 82

[Excerpts] The Supreme Defense Council chaired by Mr Khamene'i, the president, met tonight with the participation of the members of this council. This session discussed and reviewed the situation on the battlefronts, and future plans and decisions regarding the war were studied and subjected to an exchange of views. The Central News Unit correspondent reports that at this session Mr Hashemi-Rafsanjani, the imam's representative in the Supreme Defense Council; General Zahirnezhad, chief of the Joint Staff of the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran; Colonel Salimi, the minister of defense; Hojjat ol-Eslam Hajj Seyyed Ahmad Khomeyni; Dr Velayati, minister of foreign affairs; and also Mr Gharazi were present.

At the end of this session Mr Khamene'i took part in an interview with our correspondent. We draw your attention to this interview:

[Begin recording] [Question] Mr Khamene'i. what issues were raised at tonight's session of the Defense Council?

[Answer] In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. The issues which were raised were varied and different. I have a list of them in front of me. Approximately 15 different issues related to the war or political issues related to military matters were discussed in the session and decisions were made on most of them.

[Question] [passage indistinct] Recently the secretary general of the Arab League asked Turkey to mediate in the war between Iraq and Iran. Would you please elaborate on this point?

[Answer] The issue of mediation, if proposed by countries like Jordan, is to fulfill two objectives. One is that they believe that if Iran accepts this mediation and if somehow this war comes to an end, in the present circumstances this would be in the interest of Iraq. As you have heard in the news, the crushing blows Iran has dealt Iraq have been quite effective. We have dealt blows to Iraq in the last five weeks. Their first objective is to occupy Iran with peace negotiations and get us involved in discussions regardless of the result, in order to prevent us from attacking, thus sparing Iraq from these fatal blows.

The second objective is a political attack on Iran. As you know, about a month after the beginning of war the officials in charge of the Baghdad regime claimed to be seeking a peaceful solution. As you know, in world ethics warmongering is a sin, and in international political tradition and world public opinion warmongering is considered to be bad and condemnable. Iraqis, having launched the aggression, kindled the flames of war and attacked a harmless neighboring country, began their political efforts and claimed to be seeking peace. From the outset we announced that we oppose not peace but dishonorable peace, a peace resulting from a stand of weakness. We have been subjected to aggression, we are able to crush the aggressor and destroy it. We have done so in the long term and will continue to do so. If there is to be peace, it will be when the aggressor has left our soil. So long as the aggressor remains on our territory we will not under any circumstances agree to peace negotiations; this is our natural right. We announced this at the beginning and the situation remains the same.

When the leaders of the Jordanian or Iraqi regimes talk about peace or when they ask other countries or organizations or personalities to mediate, they are in fact putting Iran in a defensive position from a political viewpoint. This is in fact a political attack on Iran. This claim means: We are seeking peace but Iran does not want peace.

In response, we have made it clear that Iraq is lying and that the leaders of the Baghdad regime do not have the courage to make peace since peace is not in their interest. Although they are receiving blows in the war, nevertheless, if they make peace with us while they have gained nothing the people of Iraq themselves will condemn them, and they feel that by making peace with us they would weaken the foundations of their regime more than ever and their unpopular regime would be weakened.

Unfortunately, our cries and our opinion do not receive the necessary coverage throughout the world. World news agencies report the slightest remarks made by our enemies; but whatever we say, whether about the disregard for human rights by Iraqi aggressive forces, bombing of towns, none of our opposition to the war and warmongering is reflected in the world press. Like cries in the wilderness, even when we make these remarks at a press conference they are not reported in the world press.

[Question] What is the War Publicity Staff doing to fight imperialist propaganda?

[Answer] The War Publicity Staff has done much both inside the country and abroad in reporting the news. But the War Publicity Staff has no means at its disposal other than our media. We have not placed the world news agencies at the disposal of the War Publicity Staff. American, English, French and other agencies do their own work and say what they went. The War Publicity Staff reports the news, but the agencies which should publich the news at world level do not do so. [end recording]

FURTHER ON KHAMENE'I 7 JAN PRESS CONFERENCE

LD081240 Tehran IRNA in English 1037 GMT 8 Jan 82

[Text] Tehran, 8 Jan (IRNA) -- President Khamene'i in a press conference held Thursday afternoon, when asked whether the economic and technical aid of Eastern Europe was adequate for the expansion of the Iranian economy and under what conditions would Iran accept having relations with the West and the U.S. for expansion of industry and technology in Iran, said: "We believe that only the creativity of our youth will give us technical and industrial self-sufficiency and we have made some progress in this regard since the victory of revolution.

He added that no nation could live without having any relations with the outside world but the president stated firmly that presently Iran wouldn't accept having any relations with the U.S. and imperialism and had no intentions of cooperating with the U.S. The president when asked concerning conditions for a peace said: "We have many times declared our three conditions as follows: "1 -- The aggressor must end its aggression and leave our territory. 2 -- A commission must be set up to identify and punish the aggressor. 3 -- The aggressor must pay war damages."

Then Mr Khamene'i about [word indistinct] on the Iran-Japan petrochemical project said Iran was ready to start its work and was waiting for the Japanese partner to declare its readiness to begin.

The president, concerning the departure of the Iranian oil delegation to Libya to study the technical needs of Libya's oil industry said: "There is no need to say that the Arab countries are our friends and that cultural relations join us together. Rather those who oppose us are neither the Arab nations nor any Arab governments but in fact only some aligned governments, especially the dependent regimes. He went on to say that the people of Iraq were even standing beside Iran and added: "We respect the Arabic culture and language since it is the language of the Koran. Even studying this language has been recommended in our constitutional law." The Arab people were always supporting Iran he said, "like our brothers against the aggression of international enemies." He went on to say: We sent this delegation to prove that our region can live without relying on the U.S. Iran will break this false belief that if America doesn't exist everybody will die in the region.

When asked for his opinion about Libya's unity plan the president said that Iran welcomed such measures which are steps towards the unity of the Muslim nations. "Generally we believe in maintaining broad cooperation with our brother governments, including Libya," the president said. Although, said the president, no specific drawn-up unity plan had been ratified between Iran and Libya, Iran was ready to expand its cooperation with fraternal Muslim governments.

Mr Khamene'i, in response to a question asked by AFP concerning the struggle against the MKO [Mojahedin-e Khalq Organization], said: "We aren't fighting with just a special group. The propaganda machine in the service of world imperialism tries to exaggerate the importance of a group, and to create unreal personalities in the public mind." The president said no one was really surprised since the victory of the revolution imperialist propaganda machine and news imperialism were doing the same thing as they are continuing now. He said further that the counterrevolution comprise every kind of group such as the hypocrites (MKO), the Marxist-Leninist Peykar, Feda'iyan-e Khalq minority faction, SAVAKis (defunct shah's secret police) and the pro-U.S. agents. Both the government and people of Iran have stood against their bloody acts, he said. It was the people who arrested these counter-revolutionaries and handed them over to the law courts. This spectre has not stood on its own feet but is being supported by external powers and our traditional enemies headed by the U.S."

The president said that the main problem facing Iran was its transition from a dependent status towards an independent one. He stressed that the Islamic Republic is entering its springtime and faced anti-growth and vicious elements. "Our assembly industries are moving towards becoming an independent industry, our agriculture is good, our previous fully dependent (foreign) policy is becoming a fully independent [as received] by following the "Neither West nor East" policy and, the president continued, "this has excited opposition and problems which also we predicted before."

He said Iran must overcome these problems of its transitional period with the power and patience of the Iranian people and of the government authorities.

The president, when asked by AFP if there had been any sabotage in factories, replied that naturally the counterrevolutionaries were trying to cripple production and the factories became a target for them. "As you mentioned yourself," he said to the AFP correspondent, our security forces are not the government's but the workers themselves who will not allow any enemy lackey to infiltrate their ranks."

Commenting on Saddam's purported peace proposal to initiate direct or indirect talks, Mr Khamene'i pointed out that the Iraqi regime was lying when it claimed to be seeking peace. "Peace required a type of courage which they don't have," the president said. He went on to elucidate his remarks by saying that if the Iraqi regime were to conclude a peace treaty, then the Iraqi nation would have the right to ask their government why it wasted so much life.

"We believe," said the president, "that the quicker peace is established, the greater will be benefits for both nations. But besides that, we believe that the peace should not encourage the aggressor to continue on the path of aggression, therefore we insist that the indispensable precondition for peace should be the withdrawal of the aggressor."

President Khamene'i at the end of Thursday's press conference asked the Muslim governments to establish a powerful union supported by the more than one billion Muslims of the world, which would stand up firmly to the blackmail of all domineering powers. He asked the Muslim governments' head to achieve the first step toward this union by reconciliating their governments with their peoples. When this reconciliation were to occur, stressed the president, then the governments and peoples would speak with one voice.

The president asked the heads of Muslim governments to thank God for their nations' wealth, and use it to serve Islam and for the brotherhood of all Muslim nations. He went on to address the Muslim peoples, calling on them to consider their own power as the great latent power in the world. This power, added the president, could be developed and used as Iran's people were doing. This power, continued President Khamene'i, became a strong force which changed the international balance of power.

"Our experience should be very constructive for the Muslim nations. Our message to the nations is to follow the path of understanding and reconciliation and to adhere to Islam and the Koran. If in this unity week the nations decide to return to the embrace of Islam, their main problems would be solved. My message to our own great nation is to remain a pioneer in this respect. The Iranian nation must know that we do not intend to (?use) violence aginst any other nation. We are the enemy (?only to) those who are hostile towards us. Instead we are trying to provide the nations with our revolution's message, Islamic culture as well as the sublime Koranic precepts with the hope that one day the Muslim nations can fulfill their Islamic and Koranic objectives under the auspices of unity.

KHAMENE'I RECEIVES KURDISH CLERGYMEN, GOVERNOR

LD091532 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 9 Jan 82

[Text] According to a Central News Unit report, Mr Asgharnia, governor general of Kordestan, with a delegation from the province's Islamic propaganda coordination council, this morning met Mr Seyyed 'Ali Khamene'i, the president of the republic. At the meeting the governor general of Kordestan spoke about the work and activities of Kordestan Province's Islamic propaganda coordination council.

Then one of the Kurdish regional clergy, supporting the Islamic revolution, spoke about unity among Muslims and plots hatched by the enemies in order to disrupt this unity, whereupon the president of the republic thanking our Kurdish brothers for their visit, said that we strongly believe that the Kurdish people, and the Sunni people in all parts of Iran, are our friends and brothers. We have never succumbed to the error of equating the provocateurs who are fighting in Kordestan with the Kurdish people. We have the utmost confidence in your sincerity, loyalty and brotherliness.

Referring to the deep chasm which was created among Iran's sectarian, linguistic and racial groups, the president then said that this revolution is a factor for unity, affection, sincerity and closeness among us. Since this revolution is based on Islam and Islam is based on love among Muslims, and since we accept this revolution, anyone who accepts this revolution avoids differences and discord. This is quite natural.

Mr Khamene'i, referring to the blessing of the revolution and the unity which has been brought about between the followers of the Shi'ite and Sunni paths in the Sunni regions and to the plots hatched by colonialism for the purpose of creating division, said that the Islamic revolution is being opposed to destroy the sincerity, tranquillity and brotherliness among us. The plots hatched by colonialism are aimed at sowing discord among us and we are determined -- contrary to the wishes of colonialism -- to carry out our duties. We decisively insist on proving that in the Islamic Republic there is neither discrimination nor differentiation: We are all brothers and among the Muslim groups we are all kind to one another and move in unison. He added that, of course, it will take some time before we can perfectly apply this unity, unison and nondifferentiation in practice in our society. The culture of our society and the conditions of our life still do not afford us the capability to act with dispatch. We have begun the movement, but there will be some way to go from the moment of the initial motion until we reach our desination.

The president of the republic added that we expect you to help toward the speediest traversing of this path without allowing the provocateurs to disrupt this unity and sincerity of ours by putting forward false slogans. Mr Khamene'i said that today I see that in our border regions, which are mainly inhabited by our Kurdish brothers, the devils have made their rejected agents more active and their plots more extensive. He added that we expect you young people who are planning the future to be vigilant and to detect anything which might smack even remotely of hostility to this revolution, which emanates not from our friends but from our common enemies.

In conclusion, the president of the republic wished the brothers ever-greater success in traversing as speedily as possible the path of attaining divine and Islamic goals.

LEADERS SPEAK ON OCCASION OF UNITY WEEK

Khomeyni Speech

LD101914 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 10 Jan 82

[Speech by Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeyni at Hoseyniyeh Jamaran in Tehran on 10 January on the occasion of the third day of Islamic unity week -- recorded, duration 33 minutes]

[Excerpt] In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful.

I congratulate all Muslims on the occasion of the birthday of the prophet and his outstanding son, Imam Sadeq. I pray to God to grant His blessings to all Muslims.

Today, at this apparently small gathering, which is in fact very luminous and great, various Muslim communities, our Sunni brothers, our Shi'ite brothers, university people, Feyziyeh [Qom seminary] -- members and various other strata from different countries have gathered. All these are a blessed outcome of the Islamic revolution. God Almighty has favored us with His grace. The university, which had distanced itself from the nation, has today joined it. We hope that this bond will remain strong forever. [chants of approval] Our Sunni and Shi'ite brothers, too, have begun to speak with one voice. I hope that this unity, too, will remain strong forever.

We must analyze and pay attention to our enemies' practices. We must see what their priorities are and what particular Muslim prestige is singled out by them. We must then come to the conclusion that whatever they persist in doing is precisely what is bad for Muslims and mankind. We must discover from their utterances and behavior their aims and then decide what to do in return.

If you pay attention, you will see that in recent centuries, when the whole of mankind has become like a family, and, because of extensive communications, those who want dominate countries of the world and plunder their resources use certain means to achieve their plans.

We must see the courses adopted by them. Seeing whatever course is adopted by them, we must use an opposing one.

When we look at our own Iran, we see that extensive efforts have been made to create discord between two fronts whose unity would result in solving the country's problems. These two fronts are the clerical and the academic fronts. They exerted so much effort in order to cause discord between these two fronts. It reached the point where one could not mention clergy in the university, or the university in Feyziyeh. This was an outcome of the extensive propaganda made by them. As a result of this propaganda and our own negligence many problems emerged. We sustained no stronger blow than we did from this discord. This was the basis of all other blows. The university was running the country, and when it declined, the country's administration declined as well. We have witnessed what happened in recent centuries and particularly in the past 50 years.

On the one hand, they tried to create discord, through propaganda, between our Sunni and Shi'ite brothers. They used every means to achieve this and eventually caused separation between these two great fronts, so much so that one community was (?criticizing) the other and vice versa.

They set up parties in the country. This is not peculiar to our country; it has been the same in every country. They set up parties and made two tribes stand against one another. The parties were corrupt and the rest of the parties did not know what they were doing. Each party was the enemy of the other. Each section was the enemy of the other. Therefore, we see that what they insist on is that we should not be united, that we should not be brothers.

Muslims all over the world consist of various strata. One is nationalist; one talks about the Persian nation; the other about the Arab nation; and the third [as heard] one about the Turkish nation. Nationalism and the idea that each country should stand against another country or language disturbs the very basis of the prophets' messages. Since the beginning, the prophets invited people to brotherhood, friendship and fraternity. In contrast with them some Western- or Eastern-educated strata have come and -- mostly unwittingly, and some knowingly -- have raised the issue of nationalism. Instead of talking about Islam and the Muslim nation, they mention the Arab nation, the Persian nation, the Turkish nation. They talk about various colors: He is white, the other is black and the third one is yellow. All these factionalist issues come from big powers and big devils who want to spread discord among human beings and nations.

On the other hand we see that Islam has emphasized brotherhood in various forms: "Muslims are brothers" [Koranic verse] is used that [words indistinct] does not have any town but of brotherhood; all they have is summed up in brotherhood. In contrast with this word [brotherhood] and the other words in the Koran, these superpowers have realized that if this word and others like it are put into practice, they will no longer be able to intervene in countries.

Consider recent years in which, with the help of the Almighty, the Iranian nation rose up and the millions-strong strata of this nation, consisting of the clergy and academics, became active together and the whole nation became united -- what a miracle they made! This brotherhood in a small environment like Iran with a small population, in comparison with [other] populations accomplished a wonderful miracle. This miracle was due to the very expression of brotherhood. This fraternity and brotherhood which appeared in Iran and this great revolution united all strata: Sunni brothers and Shi'ites, Shi'ites and Sunnis, academics and [religious] scholars, Turks and Arabs and Persians who exist in Iran. You see what this unity among a small population and in a small country has done to the superpowers!

This is why all the mass media belonging to almost all the countries of the world and the superpowers in the particular are making every effort to give the Muslims a bad impression of Iran and the Islamic Republic.

The whole world is filled with anti-Iranian publicity and propaganda. What on earth has happened for Iran to have become the subject of such propaganda and other offensives? The reason for this situation is that the concept of brotherhood in Iran has been realized to a considerable extent and with such unity achieved in Iran and with its flare reaching other Muslim nations, the superpowers feel a great danger -- a danger which can destroy their whole interest. If the superpowers had been assured that the concept of unity and brotherhood realized in Iran would not penetrate other Muslim nations and that other Muslim nations would remain as they were, perhaps the extent of the attack and their propaganda against us would not have been so great.

This propaganda offensive against Iran is aimed at crushing this small unity, a unity which has cut short the superpowers' hand in Iran. If such unity is fully achieved, and God willing it will be realized, the superpowers' hands will be cut off from all the Muslims' wealth and not only from the Muslims' wealth, but from the world's oppressed. The unity of word which has been achieved in Iran, leading to the situation in which people from other Muslim nations are joining us, and in which others too are beginning to feel strong enough to join us (?is a source of danger to the superpowers).

I very much hope that the governments will pay attention and will awaken and give this point serious thought. Imagine a situation in which all the Muslims are united, each independent in their own country, yet with a common interest in Islamic aspirations. What is better? Such a situation of unity among the Muslims, or each country against the other? What can contribute to the removal of the Muslims' problems: unity or discord? How can one eliminate the plunderers from the scene? Wouldn't this be achieved more easily through unity among the Muslims governments than the current circumstances of discord?

The Iranian nation, the Iranian Government, all Iranians beg all the Muslims and ask them to join us in order to consolidate brotherhood and to create a link of brotherhood among all the Muslims. We also beg all governments of Muslim countries and request them to join us so that we will see each other as brothers according to Koranic laws and will thus be able to solve our problems. They should not consider that they will lose from such unity -- unity with Iran: Iran is a Muslim country and wants what is in the interest and well-being of all Muslims. Iran considers itself to be a brother of all the Muslims, and we request all Muslims, their governments, to become united with us in our common aim, which is Islam. We have no other aim. Neither are we after rule in the way that the superpowers are after it nor are we after hegemony. All we want is to obey the Holy Koran and dear Islam. The holy Koran and dear Islam are enough to guide us.

[Other Muslim governments] should take a lesson from the unity of word realized in Iran and unity achieved among all the groups, which has led to the settlement of all the problems. They should see how such a small unity in a small community has attracted the attention of the world and how such a unity has frightened the superpowers. If such might deriving from 30 million people is extended to other Muslim nations, whose population is approximately 1 billion, and if this 1-million-strong mass becomes united, then who on earth can crush it?

On the basis of God Almighty's directive, we declare our brotherhood with all Muslims, the governments of Islamic countries, and Muslim nations wherever they are and whatever their beliefs. We also declare that we have no aggressive designs toward Islamic and non-Islamic countries. We believe that all the Muslim nations in their countries should treat each other as brothers, in the same way that the government and the people of Iran are one entity; in contrast to the previous regime where the government was against the people and the people against the government.

The minute this nation became united neither the previous regime nor the superpowers were able to keep in power their obedient servant.

We would like to see the unity which exists in Iran everywhere, and we would like to see Muslims regarding each other as brothers, and in contract. Every Muslim, wherever he lives, whatever government he has and whatever belief he may hold, should be independent in his society and feel a sense of brotherhood toward other Muslims, and have a sense of friendship toward other Muslim fellows.

The armed forces of all the Muslim countries must support each other. If the desired unity existed among the Muslims nations, Israel would not be bold with such a small population and ignore the Muslims' integrity. If such a unity existed, could the United States govern and rule over the world and plunder every country's wealth and interest?

We are determined to safeguard our country and to continue to live in freedom and independence and to live together, all of us together, people from all walks of life with different official religious beliefs. No power can inflict any damage upon us as long as we have this unity.

I would like to ask these gentlemen from other Muslim countries who have come here to attend unity week: Make a fact-finding tour of our country and check the assertions of the superpowers' mass media. They should check and find out for themselves if what the superpowers' mass media allege exists or does not exist. Does the Iranian Government kill the children of the Muslims? Is the Iranian Government shaky and bankrupt? Has it lost everything? Has the Iranian nation become fed up with the Islamic Republic? Is there discord among the Iranian nation? They should check these issues.

On the other hand they should tour -- at least some of them should, a few from each group -- the scenes which Saddam has created in our country. They should see for themselves the crimes committed by this corrupt [person] -- on the order of the big powers. They should tour the refugee camps, our aircraft fighters, our combatants, our Revolution Guards Corps, our armed forces and the whole nation, which is the Revolution Guards Corps. After their tour they should communicate the facts they have discovered. Now that you have come to our country on your own decision and have brightened our country with your steps, you should tour our country and see for yourselves if Iranian cities are in chaos and if Iran has really reached the stage where it can no longer stand on its feet, or whether all this is mainly propaganda by the big powers in order to divert world Muslims' attention from this great unity which has been realized in Iran.

When you return to your own country you should tell your people of the outcome of your findings, providing the mass media in your country listens to you and providing the mass media in your country listens to you and providing your newspapers reproduce your findings.

You should discuss with your people the question of Iran and the miracle which has taken place here and the great phenomenon of everyone being united and, thank God, of the armed forces being strong and powerful as well as the Iranian nation. This development came about for the sole reason that they fully implemented a single verse from the holy Koran: "All the faithful are brothers." Everyone should have regards for this verse and everyone should rely on God's words; everyone should be like a brother with each other so that they will be brothers in paradise. If the concept of brotherhood does not exist in this world, there is no guarantee that there will be one in the other world.

I pray to God Almighty to guide all Muslims toward observing their religious duties. I pray for the creation of an atmosphere of friendship between the Muslim governments and their people, and brotherhood among all the Muslim nations and between the universities and the clergy in all the Muslim countries.

Khamene'i on Kurdish Issue

LD092014 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 9 Jan 82

[Interview with President Seyyed 'Ali Khameni'i "on the occasion of unity week"; date and place not given -- recorded]

[Excerpts] [passage indistinct] [Question] Following the revolution we witnessed some animosity in Kordestan and Baluchestan concerning the issue of Shi'ites and Sunnis which caused some differences of opinion. The At-Ta'if conference confirmed this point [as heard]. Would you please tell us how you and the Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran analyze this problem?

[Answer] I believe we could be more realistic in our view of the Kordestan issue. Differences between the Shi'ites and Sunnis never created problems in Kordestan. The difference between those who began armed war against the Islamic Republic in Kordestan was never the difference between Shi'ites and Sunnis. Those people never believed in Islam, either Shi'ism or Sunnism. Those who in the first week after the victory of the revolution occupied the Mahabad garrison were a bunch of communists. They rejected Islam and the Koran altogether; they were neither Shi'ites nor Sunnis. Even those who wore clerical garb and who were considered to be among the guides and leaders of these saboteurs clearly indicated in their speeches that they were neither Shi'ites nor Sunnis.

The issue of Kordestan to which you referred does not apply to Baluchestan. We did not face a serious problem, thank God, in Baluchestan and we never will because of the realistic attitude of the dear Muslims there.

But as for our problem on Kordestan, the issue began with a backdrop of opposition to the Government of the Islamic Republic and not one of differences between Shi'ites and Sunnis. A group which was neither Shi'ite nor Sunni but which totally opposed Islam raised the issue of the Kurdish people and kindled a fire whose smoke stung the eyes of the Kurdish people alone. From the beginning of this feud the Muslim people of Kurdish towns in Western Azarbayjan, Kordestan, the cities of Sanandaj, Marivan, Saqqez and others, including Mahabad, the Muslim people of the bazaars and streets, wanted these troublemakers to leave these towns; they did not want them to kindle the flames of war in these towns because they preferred the possibility of the comfortable life promised to them by the Islamic Republic. And so the reason for these confrontations was not the differences between Shi'ites and Sunnis.

Of course, there have been hands busily at work in Iran from the first day, hands which are still at work to create differences between Shi'ites and Sunnis. Some people have shouted these slogans; there are still people who do. Fortunately, the people, Shi'ites and Sunnis, pay no attention to those who shout slogans about Shi'ites and Sunnis. There are people in different corners of Baluchestan and Kordestan who still follow these slogans.

But the more realistic, the more knowledgeable, the more aware and the more honest Sunni clergymen in Baluchestan, Turkman Sahra, Kordestan and the southern regions of Khorasan are Sunnis, and also Western Azarbayjan, support the Islamic Republic and are interested in the unity of expression between Shi'ites and Sunnis and have proved their sincerity in this respect.

The Government of the Islamic Republic and the Shi'ite clergymen fortunately have followed the same example. They have all been kind to each other, we are all brothers, we are all for more fraternal feelings and will remain so, God willing.

[Question] Finally, in connection with unity week, do you have a message for our dear compatriots and other Muslims of the world?

[Answer] My message for our dear compatriots, Sunnis or Shi'ites, Persians, Turks, Arabs, Baluchis, Turkmans, Kurds and other tribes who live in Iran, is that they should create comprehensive and strong unity, thus shattering the hopes of the world colonialists. They should value the unity which we have at present and should consider any divisive and autonomy-seeking voice as the voice of Satan and of colonialist devils. They should know that as long as we hold each other's hands our revolution, our Islamic Republic and our Islamic and Koranic polities will be protected. So when the flames of division and differences are kindled in this country everything, all our dreams, whatever we hold dear and holy in this revolution, is endangered. My message to our Muslim brothers throughout the country and especially our brothers in our neighboring countries to the east, south and west is that they should know that we do not want division, hatred, [word indistinct] and hostility among Muslims; we want kindness, love, cooperation, good-neighborly relations with all Muslims, and we believe that the filthy agents of colonialism intend to create division among Muslims.

Montazeri Urges Unity

LD101010 Tehran IRNA in English 0910 GMT 10 Jan 82

[Text] Tehran, 9 Jan (IRNA) -- Ayatollah Montazeri said to several groups of visiting Shi'ite and Sunni ulema in Qom that three million Zionists had taken control of the Al-Aqsa Mosque and the first qibla of Muslims, and were committing countless crimes in the south of Lebanon, Palestine and Syria because the one billion people of the Muslim world have not yet put aside their minor differences. He said though the Muslim nations throughout the world have in their hands most of the world's oil and although by halting their oil to the United States and Europe for one month they could bring the superpowers to their knees, yet still because of the lack of common cause among them, they have become subject to oppression by the aggressor world powers.

The ayatollah who was talking to several 'unity groups' (on the occasion of the unity week) recalled the triumph of the early Muslims in Iran and over the Roman empire which occurred in the space of 25 years and said that the Muslims of that time owed their victories to their faith in God and to their singleness of purpose.

He said as differences arise among the Muslim ummah [nation] the United States seizes upon the opportunity to plunder the Muslims' resources. Said the ayatollah "it is differences among the Muslims that made it possible for the Soviet Union to occupy Afghanistan and to kill so many of its Muslim people everyday.... I urge our Muslim brothers in Iraq, Saudi Arabia, the sheykhdoms, Afghanistan, the Philippines, Eritrea, Egypt, and elsewhere throughout the world to be united for the sake of safeguarding Islam and feel ensured that once they have done so they will be capable of rubbing the nose of the superpowers in the dirt...."

The meeting ended amid the shouting of slogans urging the solidarity of the Sunnis and the Shiite Muslims and of their support for Imam Khomeyni.

More Speeches

LD101014 Tehran IRNA in English 0930 GMT 10 Jan 82

[Text] Tehran, 10 Jan (IRNA) -- With the export of the Islamic Republic of Iran [as received] this century will witness the overthrow of the oppressors, the downfall of the U.S. and freedom of Islamic countries, including Afghanistan, from the shackles of bloodthirsty Eastern or Western oppressors, said Majlis Vice President Hojjat ol-Eslam Musavi-Kho'ini on Saturday evening.

Kho'ini, who was speaking at the second session of the 'unity week' ceremonies at Tehran Vahdat Hall, deplored at a time when the great satan, the U.S., was employing a Rapid Deployment Force in the region, Muslims were disunited and that their differences would threaten Islamic societies. If religious scholars dis not cooperate with the unity move started from Iran, not only civilization of human societies but the existence of man would be endangered, Hojjat ol-Eslam Kho'ini stressed. The Quds [Jerusalem]-occupying regime, the illegal child of the U.S., had for long committed crimes in Muslim countries and many had volunteered to liberate Palestine but had failed, he stressed. The main reason for such a failure, Kho'ini added, had been the discord among Muslims.

Professor Rafi' Khan from India, emphasizing on the necessity of maintaining unity among Muslims to fight against imperialism and atheism, said that Muslims should employ both positive and negative unity in their societies. Positive unity, he added, in order to achieve superb objectives and negative unity for taking specific positions towards certain enemies. He quoted Imam Khomeyni as saying that the oppressed of the world should, free from any discriminations, become united and fight with imperialism which had enslaved them. The Iranian professor concluded by saying that at present the unity of Muslims was being celebrated but in the future attention should be paid to the oppressed people who had revolted throughout the world to fight oppression.

The 'unity week' celebration, Jan. 8-13, proposed by the prominent religious scholar, Ayatollah Montazeri, marks the birthday anniversary of Prophet Mohammad.

Resolution Read

LD081832 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 8 Jan 82

[Excerpts] Today, the vigilant and monotheistic Islamic nation of our homeland participated in Friday prayers all over the country and once again proved its unity. Masses of the monotheistic and ever-present people of Tehran also gathered in the rendezvous place of the friends of God, Tehran University, and its surrounding streets in very close ranks and participated in the very glorious and enemy-breaking Friday prayers under the imamate of Hojjat ol-Eslam val-Moslemin Hashemi-Rafsanjani.

Before the Friday sermons, Mr Hasan Rohani -- deputy for Semnan at the Islamic Consultative Assembly -- made a speech. While referring to unity week, he said: Unity week is like a thorn in the heart of enemies of Islam and Muslims.

Commenting on the discord and factors responsible for disputes in the Islamic countries, he explained two reasons for dispute and discord: The main cause of discord is in our hearts. Desires of the heart yearning to be on top, being interested in high status, craving for power, having small minds and being unaware of Islamic issues in the world are all factors.

The speaker added: The other main cause of discord is external. This cause comes from colonialists, imperialists and major powers. They always thought of ways to plunder our resources and there was no better way open for them than creating differences and discord. Major powers have used this satanic method throughout history.

The speaker referred to the conspiracies by colonialists in disseminating (?materialism) and nationalism to Islamic societies in order to create discord in the world of Islam. He said: They want to put the Arab world in a (?closed fortress) and separate 100 million Arabs from one billion Muslims. This way they want to create discord and achieve their sinister goals.

They fought against any factor of unity. They fought against the Arabic language, religion and the clergy, as a factor of unity in the world of Islam. They even tried to show us a different version of worship, as performed by the Sunni people. But today, during unity week, at Tehran University we can see that Shi'ite and Sunni ulema are standing united side-by-side one another.

Afterwards, an eight-point resolution of the headquarters for organizing unity week between Shi'ites and Sunnis was read. The resolution emphasizes unity among Muslims, reliance on the glorious Koran, exposure of the role of colonialism in creating discord among the Muslims and appreciating the efforts of Shaykh Mohammad Shaltut [Lebanese Sunni clergyman] for creating more unity. The resolution states:

1. We the Sunni clergy of the country once again announce our sincere support for the leader of the Islamic revolution and founder of the Islamic Republic of Iran, Imam Khomeyni.

2. With our heartfelt greetings to Ayatollah Montazeri, we welcome the idea of holding a unity week and we consider it a turning point for creating unity among the world Muslims and destroying international colonialism.

3. We announce our decisive support for the Islamic movements and world liberation movements, including the movements in Afghanistan, Egypt, Saudi Arabia, Iraq and particularly in Palestine. We support the struggle to liberate dear Jerusalem from the claws of the Zionist occupiers.

4. While emphasizing the point that America is the arch-Satan, we still believe that the main problem facing the country is the war and we demand its continuation until the overthrow of Saddam and victory of the Muslim people of Iraq against the criminal Ba'thist regime.

5. We condemn the discord-creating conspiracy of court muftis [Saudi Arabian courtiers] and their preachers and kings, which are hatched through provocations of the arch-Satan, America.

6. While announcing our support for the honorable president and ideologically-motivated government, and while appreciating the continuous efforts of the authorities for helping the oppressed, we ask them to give top priority to the deprived regions when planning for economic and cultural development.

7. We condemn the criminal acts of internal counterrevolutionaries, particularly in the regions of Kordestan and Baluchestan, and we demand more decisiveness from the Islamic Republic vis-a-vis these hirelings.

8. While thanking Imam Khomeyni for reviving the clergy and while praising other steps taken to establish religious science centers, we ask for expansion and development of centers for Islamic science and culture.

DETAILS OF 9 JAN CABINET SESSION REPORTED

LD091247 Tehran Domestic Service in Persion 1030 GMT 9 Jan 82

[Excerpt] According to the Central News Unit, the Cabinet held a sesion this morning chaired by Mir-Hoseyni Musavi, the prime minister. The session began with a recitation of some verses from the holy Koran and afterwards some quotations from Imam 'Ali ibn Abu-Taleb [600--661, first Shi'ite imam and fourth caliph], peace be upon him, were read as he had instructed Malek-e Ashtar [governor of a conquered territory during Imam 'Ali's reign].

During this session, the Cabinet reviewed the latest battlefront reports and domestic and foreign political issues. The Cabinet also approved the proposal to add a note to the financial regulations related to the executive units of the welfare organization as part of the budget belonging to the imam's relief headquarters budget. [sentence as heard]

During this session, with the approval of the Cabinet, Mr Mohammad Habil-Ardabili was named as the managing director and head of the governing board of the Iranian national copper industries.

At the end of today's Cabinet session the government spokesman, Mr Tavakkoli, was interviewed by our reporter about the issues raised during the session. We draw your attention to this interview:

[Begin recording] [Correspondent] Mr Tavakkoli: Would you please tell us what issues were raised during today's Cabinet session and what decisions were made?

[Tavakkoli] In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. Most of the Cabinet's time today was spent listening to Brother Mr Velayati's report on his visit to Syria. There was some very good news in this report on the positive outcome of this visit. [sentence indistinct]

There was another report from Brother Salamati, the minister of agriculture, about his trip to Qom yesterday to see Ayatollah Montazeri. During this trip the minister raised agricultural issues and received some instruction from his eminence. There was another report presented by our Brother Nateq-Nuri on his trip to Qom. He had some contacts there and explained government (?programs) to the people. [passage indistinct] [end recording]

RAFSANJANI QUESTIONS IRAQI MOTIVES IN WAR

LD081906 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 8 Jan 82

[Excerpts] Hojjat ol-Eslam val-Moslemin Hashemi-Rafsanjani, Tehran's provisional Friday imam, delivered the Friday prayers today at Tehran University. In his first sermon he referred to unity week and the establishment of unity and analyzed the conditions and factors which lead to unity in society. Mr Hashemi-Rafsanjani went on to say that today, at a time of war, we feel stability in the country. If despite 1,000 atrocious guerrillas in the country and tens of thousands of enemy soldiers from outside, we still feel secure, it is due to the fact that the officials and the governing cadres are united and that the foundations have been laid in this country for proper cooperation and everybody follows the leader. This quality also exists in the prime minister who is the second personality of the country and the most popular person in the country after the imam. As the speaker of the Majlis and as a Muslim I feel confident that whatever the president does is Islamic and that for the first time since the rule of His Holiness 'Ali, may God's peace be upon him, the president is someone who is just, a progeny of the prophet, sincere, pious, modest and believing.

Referring to the religious minorities in Iran and their cooperation with the order of the Islamic Republic, Mr Hashemi-Rafsanjani, addressing various groups in Iran, said that we can live together in friendship in this society. If you are satisfied with the rights which you have been given and if you wish for prosperity in this society, even if you aspire to political ambitions, you can have publications and you can have deputies in the Majlis. The Constitution has allowed the formation of parties, and we can live together.

Referring to unity among the Shi'ites and the Sunnis, the provisional Friday imam of Tehran said that our differences are based on two issues, one being the caliphate of 'Ali, the commander of the faithful, the other being the authority of the immaculate imams. When 'Ali, may peace upon him, himself prayed behind Abu Bakr [the first caliph] although he objected, he did not allow his objection to become a cause of disunity but he participated in the Friday prayers. So why should we fight over these issues now? It is not right. Today the support given by our Sunni brothers to the war is much more than in the early days of the war.

Then, referring to the Iraqi captives, he added that the Iraqi military brothers who have been captured took part in today's Friday prayers. We hope that we, too, will be able to go to Baghdad and take part in your Friday prayers.

The provisional Friday imam continued: [begin recording] We are very powerful. There are about 50 Muslim countries in the world; and in many other countries the number of Muslims constitutes either a majority or a very large number. Almost 80 percent of the African countries are Islamic.

The African Continent, which is the future lifeblood of the world from the viewpoint of raw materials, is almost 80 percent Islamic, although most of its governments are either communist or Christian.

Asia, from the viewpoint of its population, can revolve only on the Islamic axis.

The important strategic places of the world are in the hands of the Muslims. The Middle East, which can decide the fate of the world, is in the hands of the Muslims. The Persian Gulf in particular is a region through which the lifeblood of the world flows.

The best quality petroleum and the best oil wells are under the control of the Islamic countries. There are almost 4,200 oil wells in the Persian Gulf region compared to the oil wells in America, where there are said to be 1,630 wells; and the average productivity of an oil well in the Persian Gulf is 700 times that of the oil wells in America.

America has done its best to rely upon nuclear energy so that it could become self-sufficient. It has constructed 72 nuclear reactors but despite all this effort the nuclear reactors provide only 1.6 percent of American energy needs. This is despite the dangers which are inherent in atomic reactors, which might destroy the country one day, and there are many dangers in it which have aroused the anger of the nations.

This is the Islamic community, with all these resources and with almost 1 billion people, nearly a quarter of the world population. Even in the Soviet Union, in which a blasphemous, antireligious government has been ruling for nearly 70 years and where they kill and crush Islam and religion, nearly 30 percent, or 25 percent, of the people are Muslims, apart from the greater part of the population which is made up of Christians, who also believe in God.

The rope of God which we are ordered to hold does not exist in any other ideology, any other religion, any other place. Others have to become united over money or over politics or over deceit. We Muslims have everything but, unfortunately, incompetent individuals, the lackeys of the foreigners, the parrots who repeat the words of their masters to their people, and corrupt regimes which have long ruled over this region and throughout the world of Islam do not allow all these resources to be brought together to achieve anything in the world. Our enemies also strive to ensure that we are not united.

Why should we be fighting against our Iraqi brothers? That is a country in which 60 percent of its population are Shi'ites and the rest of them are Sunnis, who are also our brothers, just as we in Iran fight alongside our Sunni brothers in the same front against Iraq, which claims to be protecting Arabism and Islam. Why are they fighting against us?

The reason is that they do not wish us to be united. All their efforts are devoted to making the Muslims fight each other. Unfortunately, a number of traitors have occupied great political or propaganda positions and do not allow this to come about.

From this sacred pulpit of Friday prayers, in the presence of the sunni brothers and clergymen and Iraqi military brothers, I announce that the Islamic Republic of Iran has no other intention but the unity of the Islamic community of the world to achieve its real rights and to implement the teachings of God in the world. [end recording]

ARMED FORCES JOINT STAFF COMMUNIQUES 754-756

754: 8 Jan Report

LD081732 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 8 Jan 82

[Communique 754 of the Joint Staff of the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran]

[Text] In His exalted name. The situation as regards the war, operations and self-sacrifices of the armed forces personnel are herewith brought to the attention of the martyr-nurturing and dear compatriots:

In the last 48 hours fighting has continued on various fronts in Gilan-e Gharb, and the ground forces combatants, backed by the cooperation of the Guards Corps brothers, on some of these fronts carried out penetrating assaults and dealt effective blows to the enemy, thus destroying three of Saddam's tanks. The combatants of the gendarmerie bravely defended their positions on these fronts and, together with other forces, are sacrificing their lives in order to eradicate the enemy forces. Islam's powerful (?gendarmerie) combatants carried out a series of tactical operations and are now continuing their fight against Saddamist forces, and exchanges of fire continue between the two sides.

On the Meymak front, intensive exchanges of fire continued, and in Sar-e Pol-e Zahab the fierce artillery fire of the ground forces silenced the enemy artillery fire and blocked its supply routes.

On the Marivan front exchanges of fire continued, and in the last 24 hours fighting has continued in Khuninshahr, Abadan, [word indistinct], Susangerd and Ahvaz with sporadic exchanges of artillery and heavy-weapon fire. Saddam's mercenaries shelled some residential districts of Abadan with their long-range artillery, which resulted in property damage and loss of life.

755: 9 Jan Report

LD091750 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 9 Jan 82

[Communique 755 of the Joint Staff of the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran]

[Text] In His exalted name. During the past 24 hours our forces immobilized several enemy tanks and vehicles in the Gilan-e Gharb area, while demonstrating unparalleled courage in defending their positions. They also set on fire and destroyed a number of enemy bunkers.

Sporadic exchanges of fire continued in Sumar and Sar-e Pol-e Zahab. As a result of the Islamic ground forces' artillery fire, one bunker, one heavy vehicle with its personnel and several concrete bunkers belonging to the enemy were destroyed in Sumar and Sar-e Pol-e Zahab respectively. A number of enemy tanks and mortar launchers were damaged, and a number of Iraqi soldiers were either killed or wounded.

Following our forces' artillery fire in the Sayyid Sadiq area, one enemy command post and one munition depot were smashed. While defending their positions in western Dezful, our combatants sporadically fired on the enemy and thus contained any enemy movement. Our navy also fired on the enemy positions in the occupied sector of Khuninshahr, destroying several observations posts and equipment and inflicting casualties on the Saddam forces. The enemy's heavy-weapon fire set several inhabited areas of Abadan on fire. This resulted in material losses and casualties.

During 6 and 7 January fighting on the southern and western fronts of the country, a total of 45 ground forces personnel and three gendarmes were martyred. God bless them.

756: 10 Jan Report

LD101740 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 10 Jan 82

[Communique 756 of the Joint Staff of the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran]

[Text] In His exalted name. Dear compatriots, the self-sacrificing combatants of the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran, trusting in God and with the comprehensive support and backing of the noble and risen nation of the dear homeland, continue with firm resolve and a belief and confidence in ultimate victory to fight valiantly to destroy the misled Saddamists, to trample the aggressive enemy in blood and dust and to create honor by giving blood and life.

Yesterday battles and exchanges of artillery and heavy-weapon fire continued on most of the country's western fronts, being more fierce on the Konjancham front. Combatants of the gendarmerie are neutralizing with rare resistance and bravery the Saddamist forces' fire and movement on each of the fronts assigned to them.

On the Sar-e Pol-e Zahab front combatants of the ground forces, directing heavy fire on enemy infantry positions and observation posts, inflicted substantial losses and casualties on him and destroyed a number of Saddamist observation posts.

On the Dar Ballut and Tang-e Hajian fronts, the valiant combatants of the tribal militia heroically guarded their defensive positions and areas and by returning enemy fire they are courageously preventing the aggressive forces' redeployment and movement.

In the last 24 hours exchanges of artillery and mortar fire continued between our powerful and victorious forces and Saddamist hirelings on the fronts west of Dezful and on the Ahvaz, Abadan and Khuninshahr fronts, more fiercely on the Ahvaz front.

The combatants of the navy in their operations and exchanges of fire yesterday silenced enemy fire, killed or wounded a number of Saddamist elements, and set on fire and destroyed fire trenches and two observation posts.

Yesterday several intruding aircraft of the aggressive Iraqi Armed Forces violated the airspace of several border towns in the war zone, but the fire of the air defense units of the Air Force of the Islamic Republic of Iran forced them to flee.

In the battle on 8 January 35 self-sacrificers of the ground forces, 3 warriors of the gendarmerie and 1 of the brave men of the navy sacrificed their pure lives for our dear Islamic homeland, Iran. May their souls be blessed and their good name everlasting.

KHAMENE'I BROTHER ESCAPES ASSASSINATION

LD101016 Tehran IRNA in English 0941 GMT 10 Jan 82

[Text] Tehran, 10 Jan (IRNA) -- Hojjat ol-Eslam Mohammad Khamene'i, the Majlis deputy for Mashhad, Khorasan Province in northern Iran, survived assassination attempt against his life this morning. Two of the body guards were martyred by the U.S.-backed terrorists in this incident.

Around 8.00 hours a.m. today, when the Majlis deputy was leaving his residence for Majlis, he was attacked by a number of terrorists at Sohravardi Ave., northeast Tehran, receiving slight injuries in his side. According to this report, a Buick blocked the way to the car carrying Hojjat ol-Eslam Khamene'i and opened fire on various directions martyring his two body guards. Hojjat ol-Eslam Khamene'i, with a quick reaction, started shooting towards the attackers when the people entered the scene as a result of the shooting, the terrorists were forced to flee, leaving the stolen Buick car. Meanwhile, a bomb planted in the area was defused by the security officials.